

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**82<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)  
4-8 JULY 2011

**DOCUMENT IATTC-82-07**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

During the 81st Meeting of the IATTC in September 2010, the matter of technical assistance for developing countries was reviewed. On that occasion Document [IATTC-81-07](#) was presented, which describes in general terms the provisions of the Antigua Convention that establish a mandate for providing technical assistance, and the joint meetings of the tuna regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), which made recommendations in support of such assistance. Also the manner and/or areas which would be supported by the fund are established. The Secretariat considers that that document is still useful for the discussion of this matter.

The Commission discussed creating a fund for assisting developing countries with voluntary contributions by the members of the IATTC, international donor bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the industry, y that the Secretariat would manage it for projects proposed by members and subsidiary groups of the Commission.

The Commission supported the creation of this fund. Some members suggested that it be included in the budget as of 2012, since this would facilitate obtaining the funds from their national administrations, but others preferred that the money come from voluntary contributions. Finally, there was not enough time to define this point.

The Secretariat considers that both those countries that prefer to establish a defined amount as part of their annual contribution and those that prefer to maintain voluntary contributions could be accommodated. In either case it would be advisable for each Member to inform the Secretariat whether it would contribute to the fund and the way in which it wished to do so.

Six Central American countries – Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama – presented the attached proposal on this special fund, which establishes how it should be created and used. It received general support from the Commission, but in the end was not approved due to lack of time at the meeting. To that effect, it is attached to this document so that the Members may decide if they wish to continue the discussion of the matter on the basis of this proposal.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**81<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)  
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

**PROPOSAL G-1**

**SUBMITTED BY BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,  
NICARAGUA, PANAMA**

**CREATION OF THE SPECIAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND  
FOR FISHERIES FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TO  
STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES**

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):*

*Taking into account* the provisions of Article XXIII of the Antigua Convention that the Commission shall seek to adopt measures relating to technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other forms of cooperation, to assist developing countries that are members of the Commission to fulfill their obligations under this Convention, as well as to enhance their ability to develop fisheries under their respective national jurisdictions and to participate in high seas fisheries on a sustainable basis;

*Recalling* that the Antigua Convention in its Article XXIII likewise establishes that the members of the Commission shall facilitate and promote such cooperation, especially financial and technical, and the transfer of technology, as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the previous paragraph;

*Considering* that the Antigua Convention in its Article VII, paragraph b) indicates that one of the functions of the Commission is that it shall adopt standards for collection, verification, and timely exchange and reporting of data concerning the fisheries for fish stocks covered by the Convention;

*Likewise taking into account* that the Antigua Convention in its Article VII, paragraph f) indicates that conservation and management measures and recommendations shall be adopted, as necessary, for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

*Likewise taking into account* that the Antigua Convention in its Article VII, paragraph i) indicates that the Commission shall establish a comprehensive program for data collection and monitoring which shall include such elements as the Commission determines necessary, and that each member of the Commission may also maintain its own program consistent with guidelines adopted by the Commission; and

*Recalling* that the Commission has agreed various resolutions that commit its member countries to submit information on catches of tunas and bycatches, among others.

*Resolves as follows:*

1. The “*Special fund for strengthening the institutional capacity of developing countries for the sustainable development of fisheries for highly migratory species*”, hereafter “The Fund”, is created, which shall be administered by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.
2. The resources of the Fund shall proceed from special contributions obtained from the members or

from national and international bodies or entities interested in strengthening the capacities of developing countries. Such contributions may be declared by the donor for a specific use, consistent with the nature of the fund, or may be subject to the ordinary use of investments in building capacity for developing countries.

3. The Director shall budget for the year 2011, an item of fifty thousand dollars set aside to constitute the initial capital of the Fund. In subsequent years, without detriment to the Commission by a decision of its members stipulating a greater amount, [...] percent of the ordinary budget shall be set aside to be transferred as a permanent contribution by the Commission to the Fund.
4. El Director shall present to the Commission the strategic investment plan chargeable to the fund for its approval every year, which shall be constructed on the basis of the requirements of the developing countries and the analyses carried out by the Commission staff.
5. The administration of the Fund shall be the responsibility of the Director and shall be subject to the auditing rules of the Commission.
6. The purpose of the utilization of the Fund shall be the development of technical and scientific capacity, as well as organizational infrastructure, that will allow the developing countries to duly follow and comply with their obligations established under the Antigua Convention, particularly:
  - a. The creation of a standardized system for collecting, processing and analyzing data, as regards the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish caught by vessels that fish for tunas and tuna-like species en the Antigua Convention area.
  - b. Education and training, mainly in relation to the implementation and development of databases, analysis of fisheries statistics and data, and stock assessments, among others.
  - c. The participation of representatives of developing countries in the annual meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary groups, as well as of scientific experts in the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee.
  - d. Have the scientific staff necessary for fulfilling the aims of this resolution in support of developing countries.
  - e. The creation of a standardized program for collecting, processing, and analyzing data, in order to match the processes with the Commission's systems.
  - f. Others that the Commission may decide, strictly for the creation of capacity development.
7. Members are encouraged to make contributions to the Fund.